

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A battery assembly, comprising:
 - a battery having a body with a base and opposite side faces, a compartment connected to one side face and a second compartment connected to the opposite side face, each compartment defining a downward-facing cavity, the cavity housing an electrical terminal therein facing toward the base of the battery; and
 - a housing having opposite side walls extending from a base to free ends of the side walls, each of the opposite side walls defining an upward-facing recessed portion, the recessed portion housing an electrical terminal facing away from the base of the housing,
 - wherein the recessed portions are configured to removably receive the compartments therein so that the electrical terminals operatively contact each other.
2. The battery assembly of Claim 1, wherein the compartments are offset relative to a longitudinal plane extending across a midline of the body, said offset defining a first distance between the compartments and a front face of the battery, and a second distance between the compartments and a back face of the battery, wherein the second distance is shorter than the first distance.
3. The battery assembly of Claim 2, wherein the recessed portions are disposed a third distance from a rear wall of the housing, the third distance generally equal to the second distance.
4. A battery assembly comprising:
 - a battery with opposite sides, with one battery electrode disposed on one side and a second battery electrode disposed on the opposite side; and
 - a housing with opposite side walls, with one housing electrode disposed on one side wall and a second housing electrode disposed on the opposite side wall, wherein the housing is configured to removably receive the battery therein so that the housing electrodes operatively contact the battery electrodes.
5. The battery assembly of Claim 4, further comprising means for substantially preventing the short-circuiting of the battery.

6. The battery assembly of Claim 5, wherein the means for preventing the short circuiting of the battery includes overhanging skirts disposed about the battery electrodes, the skirts configured to substantially surround the housing electrodes when the battery is disposed in the housing.

7. The battery assembly of Claim 5, wherein the means for preventing the short circuiting of the battery includes compartments disposed on opposite sides of the battery, the compartments having recessed cavities that house the battery electrodes.

8. The battery assembly of Claim 7, wherein the means further includes recessed portions at free ends of the opposite side walls of the housing, where the recessed portions house the housing electrodes.

9. The battery assembly of Claim 8, wherein the compartments are disposed proximal a top of the battery and configured to fit into the recessed portions.

10. The battery assembly of Claim 7, wherein the recessed cavities face downward.

11. The battery assembly of Claim 5, wherein the battery electrodes have the same sign.

12. A battery assembly comprising:

a battery having a body with opposite side faces and a base, a handle connected to said body, the body including a compartment disposed on one side face and a second compartment disposed on the opposite side face, each compartment defining a downward-facing opening communicating with a cavity housing an electrical terminal therein, wherein the terminal faces toward the base of the battery, the body also defining a skirt about each compartment, the skirt defining a longitudinal slot between the skirt and the compartment, the body further defining a longitudinal spline extending between the compartment and the base of the battery; and

a housing comprising opposite side walls, a rear wall and a base, and defining a housing recess therebetween, each of the opposite side walls having a free end defining a recessed portion that encloses an electrical terminal, the electrical terminal facing away from the base of the housing, each side wall further defining a

longitudinal groove extending between the recessed portion and the base of the housing,

wherein the housing is configured to receive the body of the battery in the housing recess and each recessed portion is adapted to receive the compartment so that at least a portion of the electrical terminal of the housing contacts the electrical terminal of the battery, the longitudinal groove is configured to receive the longitudinal spline, and the skirt is configured to extend about the free end of the side wall to provide a sealed connection between the recessed portion and the compartment.

13. The battery assembly of Claim 12, wherein the compartment is offset relative to a longitudinal plane extending across the midline of the battery body.

14. A battery comprising:

a body having a base, a top surface and opposite side faces;

a first compartment connected to one of the side faces and a second compartment connected to the other of the side faces, each compartment defining an opening facing toward the base of the body, the opening communicating with a cavity in the compartment; and

an electrical terminal housed in the cavity of each compartment, the terminal facing toward the base of the body and configured to transmit electrical energy.

15. The battery of Claim 14, wherein the compartments are offset relative to a longitudinal plane extending about a midline of the body.

16. The battery of Claim 14, further comprising a longitudinal spline extending at least partway between each compartment and the base of the body.

17. The battery of Claim 14, wherein the body defines a skirt about each compartment so as to define a longitudinal slot between the skirt and the compartment.

18. The battery of Claim 14, wherein electrical terminals in the compartments have the same sign.

19. A housing for receiving a battery, comprising:

opposite side walls, each of the opposite side walls having a free end defining a recessed portion thereon;

a rear wall connected to the side walls;

a base connected to the rear wall and the side walls and defining a housing recess therebetween; and

an electrical terminal disposed in the recessed portion, the terminal facing away from the base and configured to operatively contact a corresponding terminal on a battery when said battery is disposed in the housing recess.

20. The housing of Claim 19, further comprising a longitudinal groove extending at least partway along each of the opposite side walls, the groove generally aligned with the recessed portion of each of the opposite side walls.

21. A method for installing a battery, comprising:

providing a battery with opposite side faces, with one battery electrode disposed on one side face and a second battery electrode disposed on the opposite side face;

providing a housing with opposite side walls, with one housing electrode disposed on one side wall and a second housing electrode disposed on the opposite side wall; and

moving the battery and housing relative to each other so that the battery electrodes and housing electrodes operatively contact each other.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the battery electrodes face in a direction toward a base of the battery.

23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the housing electrodes face in a direction away from a base of the housing.

24. The method of Claim 21, wherein the battery comprises compartments that house the battery electrodes, and wherein the housing comprises recessed portions that house the housing electrodes.

25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising moving the battery and housing relative to each other so that the compartments fit into the recessed portions.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the battery further comprises overhanging skirts extending about the compartments, the method further comprising moving the battery and housing relative to each other so that the skirts extend about the recessed portions.

27. The method of Claim 21, wherein the battery terminals have the same sign.
28. The method of Claim 21, wherein the housing terminals have the same sign.
29. The method of Claim 21, wherein the electrodes are disposed proximal the top of the battery.
30. A method for operating a hose reel mechanism, comprising:
providing a motor operatively connected to a drum of a hose reel mechanism;
providing a battery assembly comprising:
a battery having a body and battery electrodes disposed on opposite sides of the body, and
a housing defining a housing recess and having housing electrodes disposed on opposite side walls of the housing,
wherein the housing is operatively connected to the motor;
inserting the battery into the housing so that the body of the battery is disposed in the housing recess and the battery and housing electrodes operatively contact each other; and
providing power from the battery assembly to the motor to rotate the drum.
31. The method of Claim 30, wherein the battery electrodes face downward and the housing electrodes face upward, and further comprising moving the battery downward into the housing recess so that the battery electrodes operatively contact the housing electrodes.
32. The method of Claim 30, wherein the battery comprises compartments that house the battery electrodes, and wherein the housing comprises recessed portions that house the housing electrodes.
33. The method of Claim 32, further comprising moving the battery into the housing recess so that the compartments fit into the recessed portions.
34. The method of Claim 32, wherein the battery further comprises overhanging skirts extending about the compartments, and further comprising moving the battery into the housing recess so that the skirts extend about the recessed portions.
35. The method of Claim 30, wherein the battery electrodes have the same sign, and wherein the housing electrodes have a sign opposite the sign of the battery electrodes.

36. The method of Claim 30, wherein the battery body has splines on the opposite sides of the body and the housing has grooves on the opposite side walls of the housing, and further comprising moving the battery into the housing recess to slidably insert the splines in the grooves.

37. A battery assembly comprising:

a battery having a body with compartments disposed on opposite sides of the body, wherein each compartment houses an electrical terminal; and

a housing having a pair of opposite side walls, each side wall having a recessed portion disposed thereon that houses an electrical terminal,

wherein the recessed portions of the housing removably receive the battery body compartments therein so that the electrical terminals of the battery and the housing operatively contact each other.

38. A battery assembly comprising:

a battery having battery electrodes disposed on opposite sides of the battery;

a housing having housing electrodes disposed on opposite side walls of the housing, wherein the housing is configured to removably receive the battery therein so that the housing electrodes operatively contact the battery electrodes; and

means for preventing the short circuiting of the battery and housing.

39. The battery assembly of Claim 38, wherein the means for preventing the short circuiting of the battery and housing includes overhanging skirts disposed about the battery electrodes, wherein the skirts are configured to substantially surround the housing electrodes when the battery is disposed in the housing.

40. The battery assembly of Claim 38, wherein the means includes compartments disposed on opposite sides of the battery, the compartments having recessed cavities that house the battery electrodes.

41. The battery assembly of Claim 40, wherein the compartments are disposed proximal a top of the battery.

42. The battery assembly of Claim 40, wherein the recessed cavities face downward.

43. The battery assembly of Claim 38, wherein the battery electrodes have the same sign.